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Leamy

TOINES RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

19 NOV 57
C.R. 23

Sever

"Rushbrook",
TOINES,
Devon.

October, 1957



Madam Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1956.

Dr. S.C. Jellicoe was Medical Officer of Health up to the 4th August, 1956 when he retired. I was appointed Medical Officer of Health 1st June, 1956 and took over on his retirement. As I have been recognised as his deputy since 1946, I have kept in close touch with the conditions and circumstances of the District.

During the year there has been little change in the vital statistics. The health of the population has been very good apart from one case of Scarlet Fever, three cases of Poliomyelitis and two separate cases of Dysentery.

Immunisation against Poliomyelitis was commenced during the year and, together with immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, and vaccination against Smallpox, is being carried out by General Practitioners and the clinics.

Considerable progress has been and is being made in the improvement of water supplies in our Parishes. The maintenance and supervision of water supplies has been taken over almost entirely by the South Devon Water Board.

The Housing Survey has been continued and I regret to note that there are a considerable number of sub-standard dwellings still in use and that the demand for good houses with modern facilities is greater than the supply. I am of the opinion that these are major factors in bringing about the "drift from the land" and it is only by vigorously tackling these problems that we can play our part in reversing this drift and, at the same time, provide encouragement and opportunity for our young married couples to raise families under ideal conditions.

I have in other sections of my report, made special reference to the problems of river pollution and rodent control.

I wish to thank Mr. Waine, The Chief Public Health Inspector, and his staff for their help and advice which have always been so readily given at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

John Jellicoe
Medical Officer of Health.

1. Statistics

General

Area.....	80,978 acres
Length of Coastline.....	2 miles
River frontage of tidal water.....	17 miles
Population (1931 census).....	12,362
Population (1951 census).....	13,923
Population (estimated mid year 1956).....	13,950
Number of dwelling houses.....	4,405
Rateable Value.....	£141,935
Estimated product of a penny rate.....	£573.8.3d.

The Rural District is essentially agricultural with some Parishes predominantly residential, whilst there are a few small industrial establishments.

2. Vital Statistics

<u>(a) Births</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
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Live Births

Legitimate	103	92	195
Illegitimate	2	1	3

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (corrected)	16.49
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Still Births

Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	-	-	---

Still birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	0.072
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Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births	5.09
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These figures for the Rural District are materially affected by the fact that mothers requiring hospital confinement are admitted to the Torquay or Plymouth Groups of Hospitals which are situated outside the District.



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(b) Deaths

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>No. of deaths</u>	118	119	237
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population			16.99
Ditto (corrected)			9.68
Deaths from puerperal sepsis		NIL	NIL
<u>Deaths of infants under 1 year of age</u>			
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	1	-	1
<u>Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age</u>			
All infants per 1,000 live births			30.3
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			25.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			333.3
<u>Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age</u>			
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	1	-	1
<u>Death rate of infants under 4 weeks of age</u>			
All infants per 1,000 live births			20.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			15.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births			333.3

C. Causes of Death - Statistics Provided by the Registrar General

	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	0	1
3. Syphilitic disease	1	0	1
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2
10. Malignant neoplasms, stomach	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasms, breast	0	5	5
13. Malignant neoplasms, uterus	0	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	3	8	11
16. Diabetes	0	3	3
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	17	28
18. Coronary disease, angina	21	13	34
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
20. Other heart disease	24	34	58
21. Other circulatory disease	8	5	13
22. Influenza	1	0	1
23. Pneumonia	5	7	12
24. Bronchitis	5	2	7
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	3	4
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	3	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	0	3
31. Congenital malformations	0	1	1
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	15	12	27
34. All other accidents	4	2	6
35. Suicide	2	0	2
	118	119	237

3. Infectious Diseases

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total number of cases notified</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	1	0
Acute pneumonia	6	0
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	0
Opthalmia neonatorum	1	0
Measles	58	0
Whooping Cough	25	0
Dysentery	2	0

DYSENTERY

(a) A child developed an infantile type of dysentery - the source of infection could not be traced.

(b) A child was found to be a carrier and was the source of a number of separate cases which occurred in other parts of the country. The child had been domiciled in Pakistan.

4. Tuberculosis

12 cases were notified of which 11 were respiratory and 1 was non-respiratory. There was one death (female) from respiratory causes.

5. Health Services

The district is well served by General Practitioners, Hospitals, the Ambulance and Car Service, District Nurses, Health Visitors etc. A Mobile X Ray unit visits the District from time to time. There are Public Health Laboratories at Plymouth and Exeter and a pathological laboratory at the Torbay Hospital.

There is a nucleus of Home Helps in the District but they are beset by many problems, the greatest being the lack of transport and the distance to be covered. There is no provision for 'Meals on Wheels'. The domiciliary care of the aged is made difficult by the last two factors. There is an understandable desire of old people to remain in surroundings with which they are familiar - often unhealthy, insanitary and with no modern amenities wherein Home Helps will not work. Only steady progress in rehousing coupled with improvements where possible to existing houses can hope to solve this problem.

The number of hospital and welfare beds available for the aged are inadequate at present to meet the demand, and it is statistically evident that the proportion of old people in the population is rapidly increasing so the demand can be expected to increase rather than decrease.

6. National Assistance Acts, 1948/51 - Section 4.7

Under the above Section action had to be taken on two occasions, both being females living alone.

1890

1890

1890

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

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7. WATER SUPPLY

SOURCE OF SUPPLY

<u>Parish</u>	<u>1951 Census of Population</u>	<u>South Devon Water Board</u>	<u>Paignton U.D.C. Main</u>	<u>Piped Water Supplies</u>	<u>Private Supply</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Ashprington Village	316	X		X	X	Mains to be laid in 1957
Ashprington, Tuckenhay				X	X	Mains to be laid in 1957
Berry Paneroy	374			X	X	Several private supplies
Buckfastleigh West	293				X	not moorland water-springs
Coombe		X				not moorland water-springs
Scoriton		X				
Michelcombe					X	
Churston Ferrers	971		X		X	Part supplied by mains
Galimpton			X	X	X	(Lord Churston) & one other private supply.
Cornworthy	292	X			X	Mains laid late 1956
Dartington	4192	X		X	X	Local source not moorland supply - complaint of discolouration.
Dean Prior	196			X	X	Piped supply
Diptford	369	X			X	Main laid within the year.
Dittisham	529	X		X	X	Mains to be laid in 1957.
Halwell	248	X			X	
Harberton	954	X		X	X	Local supply taken over by Board <u>NOT</u> moorland source.
Harbertonford		X		X	X	<i>Dittis</i>
Holne	283	X	X		X	Some properties supplied by Paignton but S.D.W.B. took over small local piped supply.
		5.				

<u>Parish</u>	<u>1951 Census of population</u>	<u>South Devon Water Board</u>	<u>Pai ghton U.D.C. Main</u>	<u>Piped Water Supplies</u>
Kingswear	730	X		X
Littlechampton	171			
Marldon	783		X	
Morleigh	94	X		
North Huish	338	X		X
Avonwick	364	X		
Rattery	1851	X		
South Brent	649	X	X	X
Staverton	867	X		
Stoke Gabriel				
Ugborough	2062	X		
Bittford		X		
Filham		X		
Wraggaton		X		

Private
Supply

Private
Supply

Remarks

Distribution by
South Devon Water Board.

A combined chlorinated
supply.

S.D.W.B. distributes
Pai ghton Water. Further
works in hand.

Private piped supplies are those small
undertakings located in villages, not
yet absorbed by S.D.W.B.
Private supplies are wells & springs
supplying outlying isolated farms
& dwellings outside the economic
scope of S.D.W.B.

Bacteriological samples are frequently taken by the South Devon Water Board and by your Public Health Inspectors. With a few exceptions, notably the parishes of Harborton, including Harbortonford, Berry Pomeroy, Staverton, Littlehempston, Tuckenhay, Ashprington and Holne, the District has now a first class water supply both as regards quality and quantity. In the Parish of Dartington frequent complaints have been received regarding discolouration and suspended matter. The water is, however, reported as being satisfactory from the bacteriological point of view. Main supplies do not, of course reach all isolated farms and dwellings, which, for the most part have private supplies some of which give cause for anxiety from time to time. In this connection it is of interest to note that no causes of illness during the year have been attributed to water supplies.

8. Sewerage

There is irrefutable evidence that there is pollution of the River Dart and its tributaries by the discharge of sewage, either directly or indirectly. In this connection it is noted that neighbouring authorities upstream have commenced the installation of modern sewage works. At the same time it is recognised that some pollution occurs within our boundary and progress is being made to eliminate these various sources.

PARISH	REMARKS
Ashprington	Scheme for main drainage and works approved and commenced during the year.
Berry Pomeroy	Only 4 Council Houses connected to a small septic tank and filter. Other dwellings have cesspools.
Buckfastleigh West	The hamlets of Coombe, Scoriton, and Michelcombe have septic tanks.
Churston Ferrers	Sewage from Old Village is pumped into the Paignton tunnel sewer. Breadsands/ ^{&} adjoining development gravitates to the Paignton tunnel sewer. Galmpton village is sewered and has disposal works, but there are properties with septic tanks. The sewer is about to be extended in order to pick up the new Grammar School. New housing developments are to be connected to this extension.
Cornworthy	There is a small septic tank for the greater proportion of the village but now that mains water is available, consideration will be given for the provision of sewers and a disposal works.
Dartington	Three of the large villages in this parish have sewers and disposal works, but further works are necessary for the other villages.
Dean Prior	The individual cottages have cesspools or septic tanks.
Diptford	There are some unsatisfactory sewers whilst various other properties have cesspools and septic tanks. Now that mains water is available a sewerage scheme is being prepared.
Dittisham	There are three separate outfalls for this village. Permission is being sought to extend the sewers.

Halwell	A scheme is being prepared to sewer the village.
Harberton	There are small disposal works for this village and the village of Harbertonford.
Holne	There is a small disposal works.
Kingswear	There are several outfalls into tidal waters for this large village.
Littlehampston	The individual cottages in this hamlet have their own cesspools, or septic tanks.
Marldon	This village, together with Compton, has been sewered and the great majority of properties have been connected to the sewer.
Morleigh	A scheme is being prepared to deal with the present unsatisfactory state of affairs.
North Huish	There is a small disposal works for the hamlet.
Rattery	There is a small disposal works for the village.
South Brent	This large village is sewered and has a disposal works.
Staverton	A scheme has been prepared to improve the sewerage and outfall for the area near the Church.
Stoke Gabriel	A scheme has been prepared for Ministerial approval.
Ugborough	The villages of Ugborough and Bittaford have disposal works whilst the hamlets of Filham and Wrangaton have individual cesspools or septic tanks for the cottages.

9. Pest Control

Rodent control in particular is unsatisfactory. The Rodent Operator works on a part time basis of 2 weeks in every 5, this being by agreement with Totnes Borough Council who employ him. His work is slowed up and hampered by the fact that he has no transport solely available for his own use and he often has to share a vehicle with other Council employees. This necessitates him losing time unnecessarily in travelling out of his way for their benefit but to the detriment of his productive time. A further weakness in rodent control arises out of the fact that certain agricultural holdings have contracts for rodent destruction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (The late A.E.C.). This results in two authorities overlapping, the covering of the same ground twice and an increase in the cost per hour for the work done. The general attitude towards rodent destruction is very lax and the regulations are not being observed or enforced to the full.

10. Camping and Caravan Sites.

The number of sites is on the increase. There are ^{four} ~~three~~ approved sites for caravans - these are situated at:-

Bittaford Wood, (15 Caravans), Webland Farm, South Brent (20 Caravans), Cheston. South Brent (15 Caravans). These sites are limited to a three year licence, *including Smokey House Inn, Mardon (6 caravans)*

There are eight approved sites for temporary caravan accommodation situated throughout the district which are licensed annually. During the year ten licences were issued for separate single caravan sites whilst a further ten licences remained in force from the previous year.

It is also known that several other sites are used but the length of use of the site does not infringe the Town and Country Planning Act nor the Public Health Act.

There is one holiday camp licensed under the Town and Country Planning Act which has eighty chalets providing accommodation for 212 persons. The increase in popularity of caravan holidays or tent dwellers, even if only seasonal or temporary, necessitate the provision of licensed sites upon which some measure of control can be imposed. To have the sites licensed assists the periodic inspection of the sites and ensures comparative freedom from nuisances and insanitary conditions. The control and supervision of caravan sites will be further facilitated when the County Council's policy regarding standards is introduced.

Approved sites for the most part give no cause for complaint.

11. Food

(a) Meat.

During the year the following animals have been slaughtered and inspected:-

74 Steers, 148 Heifers, 38 Calves, 797 Sheep, 358 Pigs, making a grand total of 1414.

Total weight of meat condemned - 9 cwt. 6½ stone.

The greatest cause of condemnation in beasts' livers was liver fluke (distomatosis) which accounted for 29 whole or part livers. Number of pig's heads condemned because of T.B. lesions - 9. 22 sheep's livers were condemned because of parasitic infection.

One six pound tin of Ox Tongues was also condemned.

Knacker's Yards and Slaughter Houses.

There are six slaughterhouses licensed to operate and one knacker's yard.

In practice, only four slaughterhouses and the knacker's yard operate. Two slaughterhouses are situated at South Brent, one slaughterhouse and the knacker's yard at Ugborough and one slaughterhouse at Galmpton in the Parish of Churston Ferrers. Improvements are necessary to the two slaughterhouses in South Brent before they are re-licensed for the period 1957-58.

In principle I have strongly opposed the re-licensing of the two South Brent slaughterhouses owing to the fact that the premises are situated in very close proximity to dwelling houses and are poor in structure and hygiene. At one of them, animals awaiting slaughter are confined in a stall which opens directly into the slaughter bay.

I am firmly convinced that this fact constitutes cruelty to animals. The widespread scattering of the slaughterhouses coupled with the comparatively small numbers of animals killed at frequent intervals, makes meat inspection very onerous work, and comparatively a very expensive service to maintain. It is hoped that in the near future, plans for centralised slaughtering units will materialise when facilities will be infinitely better than some private owners are able to maintain or provide. All animals slaughtered have been inspected despite a period when the office of additional inspector was empty for several months.

(b) Milk.

The Rural District is within the special designated area created by the Minister in 1954. Generally speaking only Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised milk is consumed - there being little evidence of sterilised milk on sale.

There are 15 dairies in the district retailing pre-bottled T.T. or Pasteurised milk.

(c) Ice Cream.

All ice cream retailed in the district has been heat treated and is pre-packed. There are 28 registered premises.

(d) Food Hygiene Regulations.

An explanatory leaflet has been sent to all proprietors of catering establishments. Inspections reveal that attention has been paid to the regulations but in a few cases individual approach by the inspectors has brought forth improvements.

(e) Unsound Food.

Unsound meat is stained green and is collected by fellmongers operating in the district.

12. Housing.

The Housing Survey has been continued throughout the year.

Total number of dwellings in the district	4504
Number of dwellings surveyed during 1956.	285
Number placed in categories 1 (fit in all respects)	65
Number placed in categories 2 (minor defects)	85
Number placed in categories 3 (Major defects)	85
Number placed in categories 4 (Major defects and lack of amenities)	25
Number placed in categories 5 (Unfit)	25

2 blocks of 5 cottages each were represented for Clearance Area action.

During the year 4 premises were represented as being unfit for human occupation. the owners, however, gave undertakings to convert the cottages into 2 separate dwellings and were accepted by the Council.

Undertakings accepted by the Council in lieu of Demolition Orders over the years are as follows:-

<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1952</u>
4	7	4	4	1 Demolition Order.

Premises subject to confirmed Clearance Orders made up to and including 1956 and still remaining or occupied at the end of the year:-

- (a) 2 cottages standing, one occupied - Chapel Cottage, Ridgeway, Marlton. Order confirmed 3rd February, 1939.
- (b) 2 cottages standing, one occupied - Oak Tree Cottages, Marlton. Order confirmed 3rd February, 1939.
- (c) 5 cottages standing, all unoccupied - The Exchange, South Brent. Order confirmed 9th May, 1956.
- (d) 5 cottages standing, two occupied - Old Road, Harbertonford. Order confirmed 13th July, 1956.

With regard to (d) the Council has resolved to erect two aged persons bungalows in order to rehouse the occupants.

13. Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

INSPECTIONS

Premises	Number on Register	Number of	
		Inspections	Written Notices.
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	2	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	47	20	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced	-	-	-
TOTAL	53	22	2

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	Found	Remedied
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)		
(a) Unsuitable or defective	2	2
TOTAL	4	4

